

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

**ISSUED BY THE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY**

1, NOVEMBER 1963
~~**TOP SECRET**~~

1. South Vietnam
(information up
to 0830 EST)

a. Diem's regime is toppling before a coup launched shortly after noon today Saigon time (midnight Washington time--there is a difference of 12 hours.)

b. The coup group, headed by Army Gen. "Big" Minh, apparently has gained or is gaining the backing of all major combat units in the Saigon area.

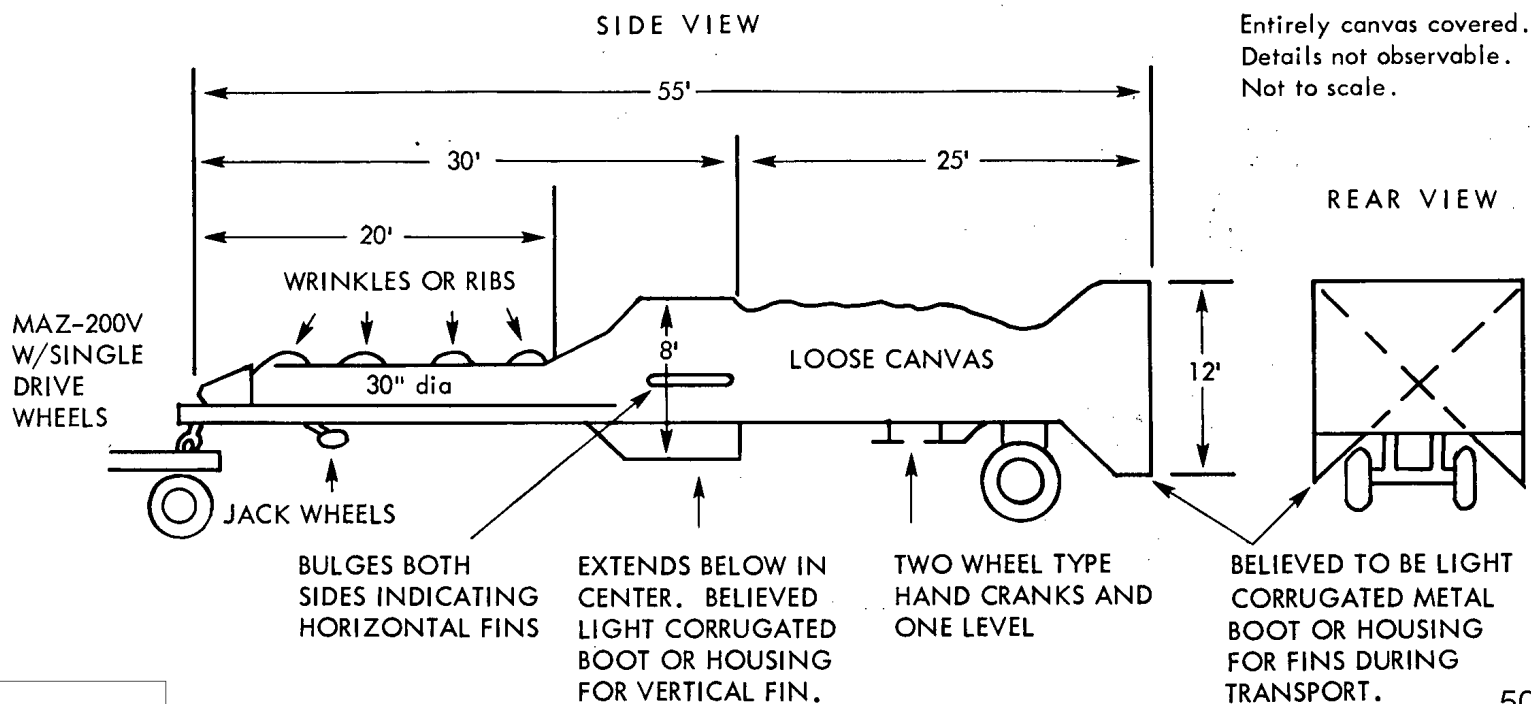
c. Special Forces chief, Col. Tung is prisoner of the coup forces and Special Forces units are putting up no further resistance.

d. The Presidential guard, too, has been largely neutralized, and the palace, evidently with Diem still holding out in it, is currently under siege.

e. Coup leaders, we understand, plan to set up an exclusively civilian government as soon as the coup is consolidated.

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POSSIBLE ABM MISSILE SEEN AT MOSCOW - OCTOBER 1963



2. USSR

a. A new missile, so far still under canvas, has shown up in rehearsals for Moscow's upcoming October anniversary (7 November) parade.

b. It is appearing in company with known SAM types, but it appears too large to be an antiaircraft missile.

c. We think it may be our first look at a Soviet antimissile missile. If so it would be a likely candidate for the probable ABM system now under construction at Leningrad.

3. Communist China

a. [redacted]
the Chinese may be getting ready to try to put a [redacted] satellite into orbit. They could do this with the SS-4, 1,100-mile missile [redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]

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4. Morocco-
Algeria

a. Ben Bella and King Hassan returned to their respective capitals yesterday amid heroes' welcomes. Both, of course, claim victory.

b. On balance, we would give Hassan the edge in the outcome: he got the cease-fire he was after and an Algerian commitment to discuss a date for negotiations; apparently he made no commitment to return to the status quo ante.

d. There is still minor skirmishing; the cease-fire goes into effect at midnight tonight.

e. Algiers, meanwhile, has put on a festive air, celebrating the ninth anniversary of the start of the war for independence. Even a Moroccan delegation is aboard for the occasion to attest to the improved atmosphere.

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5. Saudi Arabia -
Yemen

a. Faysal has agreed to continuation of the UN mission for another two months, and he says he will not supply the Royalists during this period.

b. He made it clear to Ambassador Hart, however, that in so doing, he was looking to us to get some substantial action out of the Egyptians in the interim.

c. Otherwise we expect he will resume aid.

d. He probably could use the extra time anyhow to round up planes and some mercenary pilots to help defend against resumed Egyptian attacks.

e. In Yemen, meanwhile, some 400 Soviet specialists are leaving for home. Evidently they were working on the air field now nearly complete at el Rawdha. About 200 others are still at the field and another 400 are working on other projects, mostly roads.

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6. Morocco, Egypt,
Algeria

a. Nasir

deeply committed in Algeria.

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c.

Ships

and equipment keep coming.

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7. British Guiana

a. The London conference ended yesterday without agreement.

b. At its close, Jagan was handed a substantial setback when Sandys stipulated a proportional representative system for new popular elections next year and decided to leave the voting age at 21.

c. Jagan, we understand, was stunned by these decisions in favor of his opposition. Some of his advisers are said to be urging him to resign, but he has given no indication of his intentions.

d. Sandys has refused to set a date for independence, as requested by both Burnham and Jagan, until after a new constitutional conference following next year's elections.

8. Pakistan-
India

a. We think Wednesday's fire-fight across the cease-fire line in Kashmir was touched off by the Pakistanis.

b. Earlier reports that this was their intention have pointed to a desire to generate new international pressure for a settlement. Also,

(Cont'd)

they want to try to show how US aid to India endangers them.

c. The tinder is dry in this area where the Indians have nearly 40,000 men within reach, and the Pakistanis around 25,000.

d. There probably will be other incidents, but we think both sides will try to keep them localized.

9. Haiti

a. Duvalier's enemies will attempt to shoot him

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c. Assassination would seem to us to have more chance of success.

10. Laos

a. Colonel Siho, chief of the 8,000-man internal security force, [redacted] has lost confidence in Phoumi and would no longer support him.

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b. The two have been at odds [redacted]

c. Siho has maintained contact with left-wing elements and would not be above casting his lot with them.

d. Phoumi has long counted on three of Siho's "elite" battalions stationed near Vientiane to discourage opposition coup attempts.

NOTES

- A. Berlin We expect Western military patrols in East Berlin will soon be subjected to new harassment. The Russians probably know we will stop patrolling rather than submit to controls, and the East German police have been acting in recent weeks as if they will soon try to make us do just that.
- B. Iraq-Syria Steps toward merger of the two countries continue with a Syrian delegation arriving in Baghdad today [redacted] The closer these two get, the worse relations become between them and Jordan. There is talk of a break in relations. [redacted]
- C. Latin American Youth Congress Chile has bowed out of hosting the Havana-sponsored Latin American Youth Congress. Planned for this past August, it was postponed until March to give the Cubans time to generate more enthusiasm among Latin Americans. Brazil is a likely alternative site.
- D. Afghanistan With former Prime Minister Daud out of the way, King Zahir is moving to reduce Afghanistan's almost complete dependence on the USSR for military training. He has told his defense minister to line up a lot more men for courses in Western Europe and the US.

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